

Amendments to the specification:

Please insert the following section heading and paragraph on page 1, line 1, after the title and before the first paragraph:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to International application no. PCT/CH99/00515 filed November 3, 1999, which claims priority to DE 198 54 689.0 filed November 26, 1998, which are incorporated herein by reference.

On a separate page after page 22 and after the Claim section, please insert the following heading and Abstract paragraph:

Abstract of the Disclosure

Method and device for reprocessing a thermoplastic polycondensate, in particular for the recycling of thermoplastic polycondensates, such as polyethylene terephthalate, polyester or polyamide is provided. The polycondensate is introduced into an extruder in a solid state.

The polycondensate is then heated to a temperature below melting temperature and degassed or dried at below atmospheric pressure or with an inert gas added. Preferably, to prevent the polycondensate flakes from escaping through a degassing opening, a conveying device is used to convey the escaping flakes back into the extruder. The dried flakes are then melted.